

## **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the subject application:

### **Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:  
detecting an error of a transmission of an interconnect, the interconnect including at least three transmission portions;  
retrying the transmission in response to the detected error;  
detecting a hard failure if the retrying is unsuccessful; and  
reducing a transmission width of the interconnect in response to the detected hard failure by selecting one or more of the transmission portions of the interconnect to be used for transmission, and excluding at least one of the transmission portions of the interconnect from being used for transmission.
2. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the reducing of the transmission width comprises selecting a working portion of the interconnect in response to the hard failure.

3. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the detecting of the hard failure provides an indication of failed portions of the interconnect, and the reducing selects a working portion of the interconnect based on the indication of failed portions.
4. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the detecting of the transmission error is performed using a cyclic redundancy check.
5. (Original) The method according to claim 1, further comprising replacing the interconnect with a replacement interconnect after the transmission width is reduced.
6. (Original) The method according to claim 1, further comprising retrying the transmission after the transmission width is reduced.
7. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the interconnect is a bus.

8. (currently amended) An apparatus comprising:
- a transmission error detector to detect an error of a transmission of an interconnect, the interconnect including at least three transmission portions;
  - a transmitting agent to retry the transmission in response to the detected error;
  - a hard failure detector to detect a hard failure of the interconnect if the retry is unsuccessful; and
  - a transmission width reducer to reduce a transmission width of the interconnect in response to the hard failure detector, the transmission width reducer including a multiplexer to select one or more of the transmission portions of the interconnect to be used for transmission, and to exclude at least one of the transmission portions of the interconnect from being used for transmission.
9. (original) The apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the transmission width detector is to select a working portion of the interconnect in response to the hard failure detector.
10. (original) The apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the hard failure detector is to indicate failed portions of the interconnect, and the transmission width detector is to select a working portion of the interconnect based on the indicated failed portions.

11. (original) The apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the transmission error detector is to perform a cyclic redundancy check.
12. (original) The apparatus according to claim 8, the transmitting agent to retry the transmission after the transmission width is reduced.
13. (original) The apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the interconnect is a bus.
14. (original) The apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the interconnect is an input/output bus.

Claims 15-29 (Canceled)

30. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein a number of the transmission portions of the interconnect is three, four, eight, or sixteen.

31. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein a number of the transmission portions of the interconnect is four.

32. (New) The method of claim 31, further comprising:  
if all four of the transmission portions are functional, then selecting all four to be used for transmission;  
if any of the transmission portions are not functional, then selecting two of the four transmission portions that are both functional to be used for transmission; and  
if no combination of two of the four transmission portions is functional, then selecting one of the four transmission portions to be used for transmission.

33. (New) The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
if any of the transmission portions are not functional, then the multiplexer to select two or more of the transmission portions that are functional to be used for transmission.

34. (New) The apparatus of claim 8, wherein a number of the transmission portions of the interconnect is three, four, eight, or sixteen.

35. (New) The apparatus of claim 8, wherein a number of the transmission portions of the interconnect is four.

36. (New) The apparatus of claim 35, further comprising:  
if all four of the transmission portions are functional, then the multiplexer to select all four to be used for transmission;  
if any of the transmission portions are not functional, then the multiplexer to select two of the four transmission portions that are both functional to be used for transmission; and  
if no combination of two of the four transmission portions is functional, then the multiplexer to select one of the four transmission portions to be used for transmission.

37. (New) The apparatus of claim 8, further comprising:  
if any of the transmission portions are not functional, then the multiplexer to select two or more of the transmission portions that are functional to be used for transmission.